

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03791 092313 Z

66-61

ACTION SY-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-08 ADP-00 SS-14 OPR-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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P 092234 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7373

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3791

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CO

SUBJ: SECY VISIT: SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

REF BOGOTA 3710

1. SITUATION REMAINS CALM.

2. ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE AS FOLLS: A) BOLIVIAN AMB IS REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED PHONE CALL EVENING OF MAY 8 THREATENING HIS LIFE AND HAS REQUESTED PROTECTION FROM FOREIGN OFFICE. NO FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE AT THIS WRITING. B) AT 0600 HOURS MAY 9, COMMUNIST LED CEMENT WORKERS UNIONS IN CUNDINAMARCA (SPECIAL DISTRICT OF BOGOTA IS CARVED OUT OF DEPT OF CUNDINMARCA), SANTANDER, TOLIMA AND BOYACA CALLED SIMULTANEOUS STRIKES. STRIKE WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, BUT WORKERS WALKED OFF THEIR JOBS, LEAVING KILNS LIGHTED. ACCORDING TO PRESS WORKERS IN SOME FIRMS HAVE BLOCKED ENTRY TO PLANTS. AUTHORITIES ARE MOVING IN AND POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE EXISTS. C) US GOVT OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT COLOMBIAN MILITARY IS MASSING EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER IN THE MIDDLE MAGDELENA AREA (PRESUMABLY BARRANCABERMEJIA) FOR WHAT MAY BE A SUSTAINED ASSAULT ON GUERRILLAS OPERATING IN THE REGION. NO CONFIRMATION AT THIS TIME, BUT IT APPEARS THAT SECURITY FORCES WILL GO ON THE ATTACK SHORTLY. WE WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

3. ON MAY 8, CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION DIV (WITH INTEL FUNCTIONS) OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, CARLOS GUZMAN, SENT TO RSO A LETTER IN WHICH HE ASKED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF U S MISSION TAKE
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THE UTMOST PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID BEING KIDNAPPED. IN HIS LETTER
GUZMAN SAID HE HAD NO INFO THAT ANY AMERICANS WED
TO EAST COAST IF SIKORSKA PREFERS SAVE PROJECT FUNDS.

EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE SRS OF FLIGHT NUMBER AND ETA
WASHINGTON, D. C. SO ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE ARRANGED. SRS THANKS
EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE. ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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